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JELINEK OFFERS “PROUD PARENT OF A MERIT SCHOLAR” BUMPER STICKERS

LANSING –Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, today announced that those wishing to show their support of preserving the Merit Award Scholarships may obtain a “Proud Parent of a Merit Scholar” bumper sticker from his office at no cost.

“I strongly believe in the Merit Award Scholarship program which rewards hard-working students financially for seeking a college or vocation education after high school. I encourage the families of those students to show their support as well,” said Jelinek. “In the past two years alone, almost 100,000 Michigan families have benefited from this successful program.”

The Merit Award Scholarship program has been funded by dedicated dollars from the tobacco settlement. Governor Granholm has proposed taking the Merit funding and using it to fill a shortfall in the state Medicaid budget. However, with the additional federal funding added to Medicaid funding (\$365 million) the Merit Award Scholarship should be saved.

“With the additional Medicaid funding there is no need to gut the Merit program,” Jelinek said. “We must continue the Merit program and fully fund the \$2,500 award.”

To obtain a “Proud Parent of a Merit Scholar” bumper sticker, contact the office of Sen. Ron Jelinek toll free at (866) 305-2121.